

While at the Reston Camp Expo 2018 held Saturday, Jan. 27, Patrick McNamara, Senior Staff Interpreter, History and Agriculture Frying Pan Park, Fairfax County Park Authority holds Huckleberry the silver fox rabbit for Moksha Kunchala, 5, of Reston and his brother, Tej, 8, to pet.

Reston CONNECTION

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

East Spring Street Widening
Town of Herndon
 Design Public Hearing

Thursday, March 8, 2018
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Herndon Community Center, Gym
 814 Ferndale Avenue
 Herndon, VA 20170

If the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, the alternate date and location will be **Thursday, March 15, 2018** in the lobby of the **Herndon Municipal Building, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon, VA 20170.**

Find out about plans to widen East Spring Street from four to six lanes from just west of Herndon Parkway to Fairfax County Parkway. The project also includes intersection and sidewalk improvements.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Categorical Exclusion is being prepared for this project. Pursuant to Section 6009 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and 23 CFR Part 774, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will make a Section 4(f) impact finding for proposed right-of-way acquisition from parkland and historic sites. In compliance with the Section 106 provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, information concerning potential effects on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will also be included in the environmental document.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1795 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **March 19, 2018** (March 26, 2018 if the meeting is held March 15) to Hamid Misaghian, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "East Spring Street Widening" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: U000-235-354, P101
 UPC: 105521
 Federal: STP-5A01 (749)

NEWS

Lake Anne Gas Station Robbed

BY COLIN STOECKER
 THE CONNECTION

"Sir I'm robbed," is the text message that Sanjeev "Bobby" Kapoor got from his cashier Rakesh M. Wednesday night at 8:30 just before closing time at Reston Mobil gas station on N. Shore Drive at Lake Anne. Kapoor was sitting in his car in the parking lot during the robbery, completely unaware.

The robbery only took seconds and was recorded on surveillance video. A masked African American man in a black sweatshirt put a can of chips down on the counter and pointed a pistol at the chest of the cashier. The cashier managed to unlock the drawer and hand the contents to the masked robber who fled the store with \$750.

Police arrived on the scene within two minutes of the call about Wednesday night's robbery.

They are still searching for a suspect.

Sean Lotf, a mechanic and employee at Reston Mobil coached the cashier Rakesh a few months earlier about how to react to a potential robbery situation.

"I told him to say 'The money is yours. Take it,'" said Lotf. And that's exactly what Rakesh did.

Other Lake Anne businesses have been robbed over the past few weeks, including the Lake Anne Brew Shop. However, this is the first time that Kapoor has experienced armed robbery.

Reston Mobil has endured robberies, vandalism, and even a fire that burned the station to the ground entirely over the 16 years that Kapoor has worked there. The gas station is owned by Kapoor's wife, Nitta Kapoor.

Two years earlier, someone broke into Kapoor's store and stole a U-Haul van, lottery tickets and cigarettes.

"We have the lights on overnight, and it's an extra expense," said Kapoor.

In addition to overnight break-ins the gas station also attracts people who beg for money from across the street at the bus stop during the day.

On June 23 this year, a man toting a knife approached Kapoor's employees and threatened them. Kapoor called the police and they responded, arresting the man. But the trouble came in the six court appearances that Kapoor and his employees had to attend. The man was released without any charges and they were left with just bad memories.

"What happened last night was good, with the knife guy we went to court and it felt like we were the criminals!" said Frank Lora, 49, who has worked at Reston Mobil as a mechanic for the last three years.



From left: Sean Lotf, Bobby Kapoor, and Frank Lora pose for a picture outside of Reston Mobil at Lake Anne after a robbery took place the night before.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



Frank Lora, 49, who has worked as a mechanic at Reston Mobil at Lake Anne shows a picture he took on his phone of a man who threatened him and his co-workers with a knife last summer.

Lake Anne Brew House was also robbed two weeks ago. It was a smash and grab job according to Jason Romano who co-owns the store with his wife Melissa.

"For us, I think it was somebody looking for an opportunity and we've changed so that an easy grab and go won't happen again," said Romano.

But Romano and Kapoor's employees couldn't help but put themselves in the shoes of Rakesh who was robbed at gunpoint just the day before.

"He did the right thing, I hope he comes back but he'll be shaken up for a while," said Romano.

"We called him this morning to see if he wanted to work and his roommate answered the phone. He said he's not feeling good," said Lotf.

Officers, K9 units, and a police helicopter were dispatched to search for the suspect Wednesday night according to police. The investigation is being led by Fairfax County's Major Crimes Bureau.

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NEWS

Reston Camp Expo Draws Nearly 500 People

Local area families flock to Reston Community Center to find out-of-school and summer camps for children, youth, and teens.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The calendar may have said January, but it wasn't too early for the fifth annual Reston Camp Expo held Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The free event brought together hundreds of out-of-school activities and summer camp programs for preschool children to teens.

The informative event, coordinated by local nonprofit organizations and Fairfax County government agencies in support of the Reston Opportunity Neighborhood program was hosted by Reston Community Center and offered complimentary snacks, games, and activities with door prizes, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Many local nonprofit organizations and agencies were on hand to showcase their many programs and answer questions, among them Fairfax County Public Schools, Reston Association, Fairfax County Park Authority, Reston Community Center, Cornerstones/Reston Opportunity Neighborhood, Reston Soccer, NOVA Labs, Herndon High Drama Boosters, YMCA Fairfax County Reston and more. This year's event also featured youth sports organizations and providers.

"It really is one-stop shopping," said Eileen Boone, Reston Community Center's Leisure and Learning Director. "This event is super convenient for parents and caregivers to meet with dozens of camp and out-of-school providers."

MANY CAMPS offered scholarships or fee waivers to assist lower-income families with the cost. Camps varied by age, time frame, options, and themes. Camp offerings included, but were not limited to, all-day general interest, STEM/STEAM, sports, nature, photography, and theme camps. Special Needs camps were also available and for older youth and teens, Counselor-In-Training programs and employment opportunities.

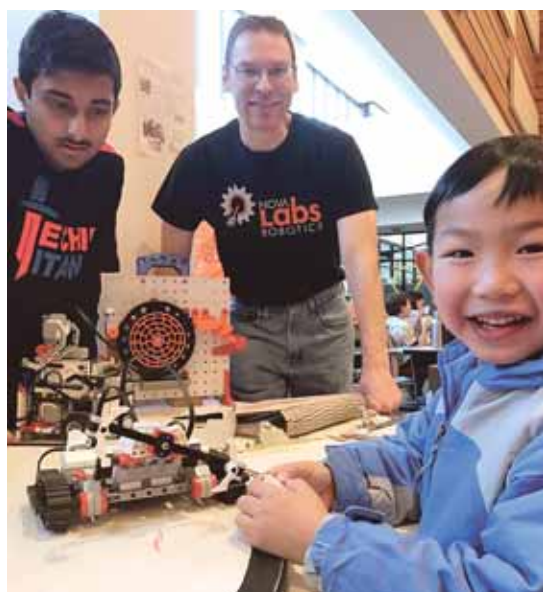
Vijaya Kunchala of Reston and her two sons Tej, 8, and Moksha, 5, visited the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park booth where Patrick McNamara, Senior Staff Interpreter History and Agriculture of Fairfax County Park Authority stood holding a domesticated silver fox rabbit. Lured by the rabbit's quiet demeanor, the boys willingly stepped forward to pet Huckleberry while mom inquired about nature and outdoor camps at the park.

On the other side of the large multipurpose room, Xue Ye of Wolf Trap stood at the NOVA Labs booth with her 5-year-old son Ryan. She asked about a camp for her older son. "He's into science," Ye said.

She learned NOVA Labs is a nonprofit organization and is a makerspace in Reston providing classes



According to Eileen Boone, Leisure and Learning Director at Reston Community Center, nearly 500 people visited Reston Camp Expo 2018 on Saturday, Jan. 27. The event featured out-of-school and summer camp programs for children, youth, and teens with opportunities to meet camp directors and get info on registration dates, requirements, locations, and fees.



During the Reston Camp Expo 2018 held at Reston Community Center on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, Ryan Le, 5, of Wolf Trap tries out a "bot" created by makers at NOVA Labs. From left: NOVA Labs makers Sathvik Narayana, 14 of Centreville and Spencer Allain look on.

such as mobile app development, robotics, 3D printing and more. While mom talked with the volunteers and gathered information, Ryan gazed intently at a "bot" moving on the display table created by youth at NOVA Labs.

Given the controls, Ryan gleefully drove the bot round and round the table. Ryan's mom assured him she would find him a fun camp too, but maybe something outdoors.

FEATURED CAMPS were not just for preschoolers through youth. Job opportunities were also available. Adit and Atin Kolli, both 14 and from Herndon made their rounds to many booths seeking employment. "We are here looking at camps and to possibly work or volunteer at one," Adit said with Atin agreeing. Asked where they would like to work or in what field, Atin replied, "Frying Pan Park," while Adit quickly interjected, "Aquatics." For more information about Reston Camp Expo, contact LaTanja Jones, RCC Collaboration & Outreach Director, at 703-390-6158.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Reston Annual Market Analysis Home Sales (Based on Final Closed Price):

2017 compared to 2016 and 2007					
2017 Total Sales:					
	\$1M and over	\$750K-\$999K	\$500K-\$749K	Under \$500K	Total # Sales
Zip Code					
20190	5	25	88	292	410
20191	3	34	136	415	588
20194	10	48	91	148	297
TOTAL	18	107	315	855	1295
2016 Total Sales:					
	\$1M and over	\$750K-\$999K	\$500K-\$749K	Under \$500K	Total # Sales
Zip Code					
20190	12	33	74	278	397
20191	8	23	162	394	587
20194	13	40	81	132	266
TOTAL	33	96	317	804	1250
2007 Total Sales:					
	\$1M and over	\$750K-\$999K	\$500K-\$749K	Under \$500K	Total # Sales
Zip Code					
20190	13	30	66	292	401
20191	6	20	122	382	530
20194	18	33	93	134	278
TOTAL	37	83	281	808	1209

Reston Real Estate Market Up For 2017

By JENNY MCCLINTOCK

The number of real estate transactions in Reston closed out the year 3 percent greater in 2017 than in 2016. In comparison to the 2007 market just one decade ago, the number is up 7 percent. This is significant as 2007 was the last peak year in Northern Virginia for real estate. Anytime there are more buyers than the previous year indicates an environment for potential price appreciation, which is very good news as we look towards the 2018 spring season.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Breaking down into price segments, most price segments performed better or remained steady in 2017 compared to 2016 and the benchmark year of 2007. The most significant increase in number of sales occurred in the price brackets of \$750,000 to \$999,000 experiencing a 10 percent increase from 2016, with the majority of those sales coming from north Reston zip code 20194. Unfortunately this bracket also seems to have "borrowed" from the upper price bracket of \$1 million and over as it experienced a decline of 45 percent in all 3 zip codes, 20190, 20191 and 20194 — 20194 experienced the least decline from 2016.

Conversely, homes priced under \$500,000 had improvement in all three zip codes, up 6 percent in 2017. This price bracket is primarily condos and townhouses, with the majority of the transactions in the south Reston 20191 zip code. The price bracket of \$500,000-\$749,000 remained the same in volume from 2016 and had an increase of 11 percent over benchmark year 2007, with the majority of those transactions also in zip code 20191.

Home sellers in Reston fared relatively well in 2017, with the demand for under \$750,000 close to the Wiehle Ave Metro Station selling the quickest. As we move into the new year, there are strong indications that homes priced well and in good condition will sell for solid prices. Should demand continue to remain strong relative to supply, some market segments may even experience price appreciation.

Though Northern Virginia is presently in wintertime, the spring market is just around the corner.

Jenny McClintock with HBC Group at Keller Williams is an active and experienced Realtor in the Northern Virginia marketplace. Visit www.HBCGroupKW.com, call 703-731-2412, or email Jenny@HBCGroupKW.com.

OPINION

Time for Criminal Justice Reform

BY JOHN COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (R)



criminal justice system.

In the United States, our system has focused on long jail sentences for crimes. Jail serves deterrence, retribution, and incapacitation in cases of violent crime. However, it does not serve re-

habilitation or restitution particularly well. And, in the case of mentally ill offenders, jail fails to serve deterrence.

When someone with mental illness engages in crime, it is not due to evil intent, but his or her illness. Retribution does not seem fit for someone who is ill and committing crimes. Incapacitation is accomplished, but what we have done is make our local jails expensive substitutes for psychiatric hospitals.

The expense of jail is no small matter. A year in the Fairfax jail costs the taxpayers about \$82,000. A year of residential psychiatric treatment costs about \$24,000. One year of outpatient treatment costs about \$8,200. When someone with a mental illness, who is often of limited wealth, is arrested, this person often spends up to four months in jail awaiting trial for minor crimes (trespassing, disorderly conduct, petty theft) where the final sentence would generally be far less. Someone with regular income would post bond at \$500 cash and spend no more than two or three nights in

jail. Altogether the government and taxpayers are spending millions of dollars to hold people in jail before they are even convicted. Is this system really helping anyone?

We have learned in the juvenile justice system that incarceration actually creates criminals out of youth who may be only misdirected or who make stupid mistakes. Twenty years ago, our juvenile detention center held 1,509 youth. In 2017 that number fell to 533, which is a 60 percent decrease. In those two decades we learned a great deal about the benefits of jail alternatives for children. Instead of locking these children up, we are reforming, teaching, and mentoring youth and turning them away from crime. And this prevents future crimes from occurring. The same can be said for non-violent crimes by adults. Simply putting people in jail, where they lose their jobs and family contacts, does not necessarily create better citizens when they are released. In the case of mental illness, jail can actually make things worse. There is a better way.

Criminal Justice Reform is not about “going easy” on criminals. It’s about finding techniques that stop people from continuing to commit crimes. It’s about turning lives around. Oh, and it can save a boatload of money. Violent criminals, murderers, gang members and the like still need long jail sentences. But many other lesser offenders can be turned around into productive, working, self-sufficient citizens. It takes some work, but the payoff is a society with less crime, lower jail costs, and more productive citizens.

Fairfax County is joining the bipartisan, nationwide movement of Criminal Justice Reform. In 2015 the county introduced its Diversion First program, which provides treatment instead of incarceration for those with mental health challenges or developmental disabilities who come into contact with the criminal justice system for low level offenses. This initiative is just one step in a national movement to make the criminal justice system better serve the American people. Criminal justice reform, broadly speaking, is supported by as diverse range of public officials as U.S. Senators Rand Paul and Kamala Harris. It is well past time for Virginia to dive in as well.

Since ancient times society has recognized five purposes to the criminal justice system. One of these is “deterrence,” which is the effort to persuade an offender or potential offender not to commit a crime. Another purpose is retribution, which is society exacting punishment to make up for the pain or damage caused by the crime. Incapacitation means removing a criminal from the rest of society so he or she cannot commit more crimes. Rehabilitation refers to changing an offender so he or she does not commit more crimes. Restitution is the payment for damage caused by crime. All of these purposes must be present and well represented for a fair and effective

Best Place to Live

BY KENNETH R. “KEN” PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



An article in the most recent issue of Money magazine described the best places to live in each of the 50 states; not surprisingly for Virginia the highest ranked place to live is Reston. Reston is not a county, city or town but a big community of 61,319 mostly happy people.

As a native Virginian who has traveled extensively throughout the state, I fully concur with the selection of Reston as the best place to live in a state that is filled with many desirable places to live. However, I was disappointed in the narrative that justified Reston — even their explanation of Reston’s history missed the mark.

I agree that “Reston was once just an idea,” but calling Robert E. Simon “an architect and economist” misses the mark of who he was and what his significant contributions were to building a best place like Reston. Bob Simon was a visionary, philosopher, community builder and developer and humanitarian. He envisioned a community in which people could live, work and play, and his success in bringing about such a place against great odds continues to be celebrated.

Justification for the selection of Reston is understandably limited as the magazine con-

tained descriptions of 50 communities. It says about Reston, “the thriving Washington, D.C. suburb offers a woodsy atmosphere that includes expanses of parks, lakes, golf courses, and bridle paths. Over 50 miles of pathways were designed to weave in and around its communities to increase pedestrian safety and to ensure that most residents’ homes were

no more than a half-mile walk to village centers.” It mentions Reston Town Center that it calls “the community hub,” with an array of dining, entertainment, and shopping venues along with headquarters of major corporations.

Beyond quibbling with some details of the description, I would have chosen other factors that make Reston such a desirable place to live. Noteworthy is the openness of the community to all people from its very beginning. Simon was inviting African Americans to the community while the rest of the state was opposing fair housing laws.

The diversity of people living, working and playing together that is occurring in communities throughout the country was a hallmark of Reston from the beginning and is a value that is baked into the DNA of the community. Muslims pray in local synagogues. A local ecumenical church has four denominations meeting in one service. Its schools are happy places with children of all abilities learning together.

Clarification: Lake Skating — Not Safe

Following the publication last week of the photos of Reston residents enjoying recreational activities on the frozen Lake Thoreau, we have received a number of notes and calls from the concerned community members, who wanted us to remind the public that “skating, walking or conducting any other winter activities on the lakes in Reston is not safe and is prohibited.”

They asked us to clarify to residents, especially new members of the community, that going out on any Reston lakes when they look frozen is not safe.

The Reston Association has just produced a video warning community members to stay off the ice. The video can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=bh1YqwfAMnI.

It has a variety of housing options, from apartments, condominiums, town and single-family homes and senior and assisted living. It may be the only community in America that requested a homeless shelter be built in it. On a recent weekend, community members attended a social event that raised nearly \$450,000 to pay for the relocation costs of families moving out of the shelter.

I love the lakes, trails and facilities of Reston. Most of all, however, I love the people of Reston — their caring, activism and spirit, all of which make it the best place to live in Virginia.

The General Assembly is going full blast. I will update you on what is happening in future columns.

Reston
CONNECTION

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OPINION

Turning Over More Stones at RA

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Upon our return Friday from a short visit with friends in St. Pete Beach, Fla., the first news I heard was not more quackery or the latest mad musings from the White House. Instead, we were greeted with a video of community volunteers Moira Callaghan and Jill Gallagher presenting their investigation of Reston Association's controversial Tetra/Lake House purchase and costly rehabilitation to the RA Board meeting of Jan. 25.

Callaghan and Gallagher spent hundreds of hours of their own time delving deeper into the internal RA processes which led to the Tetra deal because they, like myself and others, were not satisfied with the limited review done by the Stoneturn consultants contracted by the former RA Board in 2016.

After the presentation, RA President Sherri Hebert said, "It blew me away!" Indeed, it was devastating – painting a picture of staggering incompetence intertwined with apparent deception by omission or commission. It is hard to fully capture it in a short column. To fully appreciate the extent of the failures, you have to hear them for yourself. Easy enough to do. Go to RA website and search for the video of the Jan. 25 meeting. Then sit back and try to stay calm.

The Callaghan and Gallagher presentation traces RA actions from first off-the-record conversations with the Tetra owner to property valuation, referendum, sale and the subsequent "deferred maintenance" and remodeling of the Tetra-now-Lake House structure. Their research covered available public records, including all Reston Association and Fairfax County records. And, they were careful to note that RA staff had been cooperative and responsive to all their requests for records, but in many cases records were woefully inadequate. That is, important, essential documents did not exist, such as contracts or records of executive sessions.

Here are a few examples of the systemic failures and other issues reported:

- ❖ staff failed to make the Board aware of negotiations for possible purchase and it appears that Board members (2014-2016) for the most part showed a startling lack of curiosity, failed to ask obvious questions;
- ❖ the Tetra appraisal was overestimated, apparently based on a false assumption about use as a restaurant which had been previously denied by the County;
- ❖ important facts were either left out of the referendum document or misstated;
- ❖ the CFO, who was left out of key steps in negotiation and appraisal, and contract lawyer warned that property was greatly overpriced, but they were ignored;

❖ the CFO warned projected income for RA use of the property was wildly overstated;

❖ contracts for work on deferred maintenance and remodeling were not completed and in some cases not signed until work had been underway for months, involving hundreds of thousands of dollars;

❖ possible conflict of interest in contractor selection;

❖ the CFO was left out of contracts' clearance process;

❖ several contracts signed for construction management, some for the same work;

❖ several jobs done apparently with no contracts at all;

❖ ETC.

Now, the ball is in the RA Board's hands for action. The first action the Board should take is to profoundly thank Ms. Callaghan and Ms. Gallagher for a tremendous effort and for clarifying a muddled record and providing a guide for procedural improvements sorely needed to protect membership interests.

Second, while this Board (with the exception of Ms. Bitzer and the soon-to-depart Mr. Sanio) was not present when the failures occurred and has already begun reforms, this Board must continue reforms using the report as a guide.

Lastly, the Board must review the actions of staff as documented in the Callaghan/Gallagher report and determine if their failures warrant administrative actions.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Comment Period Closes. The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeting for more.

Registration Opens: Two-way and Immersion Programs. Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) online registration for the county-wide lottery. Current prekindergarten students may apply for the kindergarten immersion program and current kindergarten students may apply for the first grade immersion programs for the 2018-19 school year. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, for the first grade immersion program and by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, for the kindergarten immersion program. Visit www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Job Fair. FCPS is searching for educators with a strong academic background and a passion for making a difference. To meet increased hiring needs FCPS is hosting an invitation only job fair during which they will be interviewing candidates in all instructional areas. The fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, with a snow makeup date of Feb. 24. To learn how to be considered for an invitation, visit www.fcps.edu.

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Publishes: Feb 28, 2018 • Ads close: Feb 22, 2018

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Announcements

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Silver Diner Development, LLC trading as Silver Diner, 11951 Killingsworth Ave. Reston, VA, 20194. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Robert Gialmo, Manager & Vpe Von Hengst, Manager. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements

Attention Invokana® Users

Our law firm is accepting claims nationwide for an **Invokana® Injury Lawsuit**. Invokana®, a SGLT2 inhibitor, is prescribed to patients with type 2 diabetes.

The new Boxed Warning, the strongest label the FDA can place on a prescription medication, will now inform patients about the **risk of amputation** from canagliflozin, the active drug in Invokana.

If you or a loved one has suffered an amputation after taking Invokana® or Invokamet®, please contact our law firm now as you may be entitled to financial compensation.

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VALENTINE'S DAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

Accessories like Moon Melt Lotion Bars by Moon Valley Organics at The Picket Fence in Burke might appeal to those who want to create to a spa at home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME ON CAMERON

A bouquet of felt flowers in assorted colors like these that were handmade in Nepal, is a gift with a charitable flair from Home on Cameron in Alexandria.

Gifts for Valentine's Day

Local tastemakers offer thoughtful giving suggestions.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the most heavily gifted holidays is Valentine's Day. In fact, much of the fun is the anticipation. In preparation for Cupid's Day, a few local style aficionados offer up ideas to sweeten the celebration.

For those deserving some pampering, create a spa experience at home with NW Rainforest Body Cream, advises Isabel Chiotti of Sonoran Rose in Potomac.

"Soaps and candles also make great gifts," she said.

"It can also be fun to think outside the box," said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Surprise your Valentine with a gift certificate for a spa day or a shopping spree at her favorite store. Put together a basket of a few of her favorite things."

Among the things that Thomas suggests are Moon Melt Lotion Bars by Moon Valley Organics. Decadent and indulgent, these scented moisturizers combine herbs and beeswax to help fight dry skin, she says.

For the romantics, Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria suggest a bouquet of felt flowers in assorted colors, handmade in Nepal. These eye-catching, fair trade buds offer bursts of color and benefit women artisans who are heads of households.

For the bedhead, Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Old Town Alexandria recommends silk charmeuse pillowcases by Branche. "These won-

derful pillowcases help preserve one's hairdo and help to keep away wrinkles," she said.

For the stylish, a fur neck warmer is a cozy suggestion that Mertins offers. And for the traditionalists, "Flowers are always welcome and, of course, the color red being very popular as it conveys deep emotion," she said. "Don't be afraid to give varieties other than roses."

For the nostalgic, Kevin Sweitzer of Thos. Moser, Handmade American Furniture, believes that an heirloom quality beacon box to hold keepsakes would be ideal. "[It's] meant to be passed down from generation to generation," he said. "A really nice and memorable Valentine's gift."

For the entertainers, Nelson and Martz suggest all natural, hand blown glass candles, while Mertins says bar accessories work as gifts for mixologists.

For those with a sweet tooth, Chiotti recommends hot cocoa by the Cocoa Company, brown sugar toffee by Gearharts Fine Chocolates or caramels by Big Picture Farm.

For almost everyone,

Suzie Clayton of Dalton Brody suggests picture frames. "From wood to Lucite to silver, there's something for everyone," she said. "It's more about finding the right thing for the right person."

"Some of the most meaningful gifts are those which are handmade including cards and a home-cooked romantic dinner," added Mertins. "Don't forget the bubbly and always lots and lots of chocolate."

"It can be fun to think outside the box."

— Courtney Thomas, The Picket Fence



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONORAN ROSE

A basket of spa items like NW Rainforest Body Cream from Sonoran Rose in Potomac is an indulgent Valentine's Day gift.



Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron suggest all natural, hand blown glass candles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME ON CAMERON

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kinder-garten-registration.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Comment Period Closes. The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. Information outlining all proposed fee changes is now available for review online, at the Park Authority's main office in the Herrity Building and at staffed park facilities, including RECenters, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting for more.

Registration Opens: Two-way and Immersion Programs. Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) online registration for the county-wide lottery. Current prekindergarten students may apply for the kindergarten immersion program and current kindergarten students may apply for the first grade immersion programs for the 2018-19 school year. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, for the first grade immersion program and by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, for the kindergarten immersion program. Visit www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Job Fair. FCPS is searching for educators with a strong academic background and a passion for making a difference. To meet increased hiring needs FCPS is hosting an invitation only job fair during which they will be interviewing candidates in all instructional areas. The fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, with a snow makeup date of Feb. 24. To learn how to be considered for an invitation, visit www.fcps.edu.

FRIDAY/FEB. 9

Grant Application Deadline. 5 p.m. The Town of Herndon is accepting grant proposals up to \$4,500 through the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) for projects to be implemented in FY 2019. For information about this program and other grant opportunities, review the newly adopted 2018-2019 Guidelines for Funding which are available at www.arts.virginia.gov/grants_guidelines.html.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

Grant Application Deadline. The Community Investment Funds are the signature grant cycle managed by the Community Foundation in which funds are invested in organizations serving the Northern Virginia community. This year funding will be provided in four areas of focus: Child and Youth Development, Education, Poverty Relief, and Aging. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/community-investment-funds.

Commemorative Bricks Sale Ends. Each year dozens of individuals leave their mark on Reston through a commemorative brick. The bricks are dedicated at Founder's Day - April 14, 2018 - and installed on Lake Anne Plaza. Bricks can be purchased from the Reston Historic Trust & Museum for a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 for a standard-sized brick and \$250 for a large brick. To order, visit the museum, go to www.restonmuseum.org/support, or contact Alexandra Campbell at rhtdirector@gmail.com or 703-709-7700.

THURSDAY/FEB. 15

Community Food Packing. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia will hold its next monthly food packing. Email LynnB517@verizon.net or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

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Space In Which I Wouldn't Get Lost



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a follow up to last week's column titled "Lost in Space," I have a few recommendations for the medical profession, oncologists particularly, as it relates to their comings and goings and the effect it might have on their patients, many of whom have been characterized as "terminal," as I was.

Respecting and appreciating the fact that on a good day, our anxiety level is likely off the chart, we need you to work with us, not against us.

And though I can certainly recall how I was encouraged to reach out – either by phone or electronically, whenever we had questions or concerns, I believe there needs to be an upgrade to that advisory. That 'encouragement' works fine when you're here/on site. However, based on my most recent experience, I need that 'advisory' to work equally fine when you're not here.

Ergo: I want to meet and develop some kind of relationship with the oncologist who will be covering for you when you're absent. I want that oncologist's name, email address and phone number (none of which I had during this most recent experience). I want some assurance/acknowledgment that this oncologist knows who I am, how I'm treated and is familiar with any special circumstances pertaining to my care and feeding. Moreover, I want "t.l.c.," because I definitely deserve it.

As for the oncologist's goings; on the occasions when, for whatever reason, you're away from your office. I want to know before, not after. I don't want to learn about it by reading a default email saying you're out of the office. Though I appreciate knowing after, it's not good enough. I want to know all the time. In fact, every time you're away, I want to know. Whether or not I have any medical activities (lab work, infusion, scans) planned, I want to know, just in case something unexpected – or even expected, happens.

This would help me to prepare, anticipate, assimilate and coordinate any and all future medical activities so that I could determine in advance, if necessary, an action plan. One that would proactively solve/prevent a problem rather than reacting to one as most recently happened to me. I don't want any more surprises. I don't want to experience any lack of communication at any time. I don't care about how or why. I simply want to know ahead of any potentially complicating circumstances, not behind. I'm already feeling some relief just writing about it.

How can this be implemented? Electronically of course. I don't need any calls. A don't-reply email is fine. I know that system/process works when I want to communicate with you and/or review information which has been posted online. What I want to know next is the doctor's schedule, not hourly, maybe not even daily (although I wouldn't be averse to it), but weekly for sure, electronically in my inbox first thing Monday morning.

Knowing the doctor's availability will help me manage my expectations and minimize my stress. As a cancer patient, I never know what I'll want or when I'll want it. But finding out the easy way (in advance) is certainly preferable to finding out the hard way (during/after).

Medically speaking, I don't want to miss anything nor do I, living forward, want anything to be missed. If you can email an after-appointment summary, you can certainly email me a pre-appointment schedule of when and where my primary care physicians (oncologist and internal medicine) will be. Because out of sight unfortunately doesn't mean out of mind, unless I know otherwise.

And that's my goal: to mind my own business and not have to worry about yours.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

ONGOING

“45 Plays for 45 Presidents.”

Through Feb. 4 at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop Theatre Company opens a hysterical take on history with the play “45 Plays for 45 Presidents”. The play, which is already selling out performances, presents a series of 45 two-minute plays — one for each American President. In a female-forward twist to the amusing premise, NextStop’s production also casts five women as all the presidents. Performances are Thursdays through Sundays. General admission, \$20-\$55 at www.NextStopTheatre.org or by calling 866-811-4111.

Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 17, various times at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Featuring the work of Paulina Peavy, namesake of “Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina,” the first exhibition to bring together a selection of Peavy’s works across disciplines including works on paper, paintings, films, texts, and numerous mixed media masks. Visit www.restonarts.org.

Homegrown Yoga. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Alison Adams is bringing Homegrown Yoga to ArtSpace Herndon. All levels welcome. Drop in and take a class. \$25 two week unlimited pass or drop-in available. Visit homegrownpoweryoga.com to sign up.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Millennials Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Title is “Life After life” by Kate Atkinson. Check out Library copy or pick up a copy of one’s own. Adults from early 20s to early 30s. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 1-4

Mystery & Adventure Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Investigate the wide selection of titles available at the Reston Friends Mystery and Adventure Book Sale. Books for all ages. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/FEB. 2

Open Mic Poetry Night. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featured members of the Poetry Society of Virginia will be present to share their poetry. An open mic will follow, allowing for anyone attending to have a moment on stage. Free and open to the public. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

Swing Dance. 8:30-9 p.m. beginner swing lesson; 9 p.m.-midnight dance at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. The Hula Monsters have been performing since 1988. \$15. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Book To Movie “The Color Purple.” 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/FEB. 4

Classes @ ArtSpace. 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St.,



Ice Skating

The ice rink at the Reston Town Centre is open for the season. Call 703- 709-6300 for more.

Herndon. Snowy Owl Moon: Children’s Workshop. \$20 per student. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/new-events/2018/1/18/snowy-owl-moon-childrens-workshop.

Soiree Chamber Music Series. 4-5:30 p.m. at UCP Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. An intimate salon style performance by members of the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington featuring works by: Albinoni, Menotti, Piazzolla, Rossini and Saglietti. Special performance by Dr. Hai-En Tsai, trombone. Reception to follow the performance. Adults, \$30; seniors, \$25; students, \$20; and children 12 and younger, free.. Visit bit.ly/2D2wEcl for tickets. Call 571-483-8444 or visit www.PACOdC.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 7

Embrace New Beginnings. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Gerry Gorman will lead this meditation practice. Registration opens Jan. 24. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.
Read and Sip. 6-8 p.m. Scrawl Books readers will meet at The Tasting Room in Reston Town Center to discuss books over a glass of wine. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com/event/wine-wednesday-book-chats.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Sisters in Crime Write-a-Thon. 10 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Come write in with Sisters in Crime mystery authors. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.
Meet the Artists. 3-4 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Members of the League of

Reston Artists display paintings, drawings, mixed media, photographs and two-dimensional works suitable for wall hangings. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 11

Author Event. 4-6 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11862 Market St., Reston. Author C. V. Wyk will be at the store to discuss her new YA fantasy novel Blood and Sand. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com/event/blood-and-sand-c-v-wyk.

Mardi Gras Celebration. 5-7 p.m. at United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Celebrate Mardi Gras with live entertainment from Reston’s top talent, including the Reston Divas for an evening of music, dance, food and more. The event is free and fun for all ages. Call 703-620-3065 or visit www.ucpreston.org/event/1070505-2018-02-11-mardi-gras/.

TUESDAY/FEB. 13

Design and Wine. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Design and Wine: Winter Colors with Lorrie Herman. \$40 per person covers wine, light snacks and supplies. Limited to 25 participants. Registration is required with payment in advance. No prior art experience necessary. Call 703-956-9560.

James A. Bland Music Scholarship Competition. 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Solo musicians from local schools with a variety of voice, piano and instrumental talents compete to advance to regional round of competition. Winners will advance to district and state competition levels. Admission is free. Visit www.restonlions.org.



An Evening with Eva Schloss

Presented by the Chabad centers of Northern Virginia.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, Eva Schloss will share her experiences as the childhood friend and step sister of Anne Frank, including accounts of the publishing of Anne’s diary.

The presentation will take place at the George Mason University Center For The Arts at 7 p.m. and will be suitable for people of all ages including teenagers. Families of all faiths are invited to attend. This is an opportunity to hear a first-hand account from someone whose life intersected with a historical figure.

Chabad of Reston-Herndon is a sponsor for the event. Partners for the evening include:

- ❖ The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- ❖ JCC of Northern Virginia
- ❖ George Mason University
- ❖ Gesher Jewish Day School
- ❖ Washington Jewish Week
- ❖ Fairfax County Public Schools

In 1938, Germany invaded Austria, causing many Jewish families to flee Austria to avoid persecution. Among the emigrants was 8-year-old Eva Geiringer, who with her mother, brother, and father moved first to Belgium and then to Holland, where one of her neighbors was a German Jewish girl of the same age.

The two girls became friends and playmates (though, as Eva would say many years later, the girl was “much more grown-up and mature than me”). They passed the time by skipping, playing hopscotch and marbles, and drinking lemonade that the girl’s mother prepared.

Ultimately, both girls and their families were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Later they would become step sisters.

Eva survived her concentration camp experience and made her way to England, where she married Zvi Schloss and raised three daughters. She worked as a studio photographer and ran an antique shop.

Her step-sister did not survive Auschwitz, but kept a diary that did. Her name was Anne Frank.

Since 1985, Eva Schloss has devoted herself to holocaust education and global peace. She has recounted her wartime experiences in more than one thousand speaking engagements. She has written two books and has had a play written about her life. In 1999 she signed the Anne Frank Peace Declaration along with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the niece of Raoul Wallenberg, who rescued thousands of Jews in Budapest.

Tickets for students are free, \$10 for adults and \$360 for VIP which includes two tickets to a VIP reception and reserved seating. Reservations can be made at www.chabadrh.org.

First Place at Bring It Competition

Shades of You, Herndon High School’s Step Team (above in rehearsal), won first place — and \$3,000 — in the school performance category at the Bring It 2018 competition held at Reston Bible Church in Dulles on Friday, Jan 19. The team competed against 10 other group acts across Northern Virginia. Shades of You has 14 dancers, coached by Byron Renderos and overseen by HHS sponsor Tiffany Murphy. The team members are: Jearne Prosper, 11th; Ginny Threlkeld, 10th; Sammy Hernandez, 11th; Patricia Hernandez, 11th; Taylor Elgin, 12th; Padmini Sudhesh, 11th; Rosa Segovia, 9th; Jazmine Vasquez, 9th; Elizebeth Sontiago, 9th; Skyler Dorsey, 11th; Morgan Stokes, 11th; Olivia Taylor, 10th; Jescenia Hembry, 10th; and Zainab Camara, 10th.